



the chase room
Friday, January 12, 2018
Buffet dinner 5pm
Program 6pm

NJPAC presents

Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Celebration

Pre-Performance Reception
Living the Dream

Honoring

Steward of the Dream
Deborah Smith-Gregory
President, Newark NAACP

Visionary of the Future
Rev. Ronald Slaughter
Senior Pastor, Saint James AME Church

20th Anniversary Season Elders' Council Inductee
Philip S. Thomas
Founding Vice President, NJPAC Arts Education

Presented in cooperation with the Newark Unit of the NAACP



As a courtesy to the performers and fellow audience members, please be sure to silence all mobile devices.



This program is made possible in part by funds from the New Jersey State Council on the Arts/Department of State, a Partner Agency of the National Endowment for the Arts and by funds from the National Endowment for the Arts.

meet the honorees

The ministry continues to grow with an average attendance of 1700 worshippers weekly at its Newark Campus and over 200 worshippers weekly at its South Orange Campus located at South Orange Performing Arts Center (SOPAC). In July of 2015, Saint James purchased the properties across the street from its main location for \$375,000 without obtaining a loan or borrowing any money. The purchased properties will be the new home of Saint James' 42,000 sq. ft. worship facility in 2020.

Pastor Slaughter was inducted into the Henry McNeal Turner Alumni Class of 2017 Hall of Fame at Turner Theological Seminary and was elected as the Chairman of the Local Governing Board of Saint Michael's Medical Center in Newark, NJ. He was also appointed the Chairman of the New Jersey Annual Conference Board of Examiners, making him the youngest to serve in this capacity in the First Episcopal District, and serves as the Finance Chairman for the New Jersey Annual Conference of the First Episcopal District. Rev. Slaughter is presently enrolled at Wesley Theological Seminary in Washington, DC pursuing his doctoral degree.

Pastor Slaughter is eternally grateful and extremely appreciative of his wife, Kyla Trinette Brown Slaughter and their children: Kellyn Skyla, Kylynn Rona, and Ronald Levant "R2."



Philip S. Thomas has worked professionally in the arts for his entire career centered in the field of presenting, producing and touring the live performing arts. In addition, he has had a corollary focus on the training of young people in the performing arts disciplines of dance, music, musical theater and drama. He has also been engaged in providing technical assistance to strengthen the abilities of performing artists to be successful in managing the business and production requirements for presenting individual or company performances.

Mr. Thomas served as Executive Director of Newark Symphony Hall from May 2007 to December 2011. He previously served as Vice President of Arts Education at New

Jersey Performing Arts Center (NJPAC) from September 1992 to March 2005. He was Founder and Artistic Director of the Carter G. Woodson Foundation, a multi-disciplinary presenting, touring and arts education organization, from 1985 to 1992. Other experiences include Director of Marketing at Newark Symphony Hall (1982-85), Director of the Arts Development Services Program for the New Jersey State Council on the Arts (1980-82), Director of the Greater Paterson Arts Council (1977-80) and Arts Education Consultant for Bergen Performing Arts Center (2005-06).

Mr. Thomas has been recognized as a leader in the development and implementation of performing arts presentations, high quality theatrical experiences, and community-based arts education programming by the state of New Jersey, local governments, the national arts community and the private sector.

Mr. Thomas holds a Bachelor of Arts degree in Theater from Montclair State University and a Master of Arts degree in Arts Administration from Winthrop University.